FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1900.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid. 6 00 RUNDAY, per Year. DAILY AND SUNDAY per Year 8 00 DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month Postage to foreign countries added. THE SUN. New York City.

PARIS-Klosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Elosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscript ton wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Next Congress.

The Congress elections this year will be of the gravest importance to all business interests. The present House of Representatives has a Republican majority of thirteen only, and that dangerously small margin for the defence of the gold standard is the consequence of the recreancy of the business men of the city of New York in 1898 to the sound currency principles upon which its prosperity depends.

The first fifteen Congress districts of New York are all in the city of New York as it now is, except the First, which is made up of Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties in Long Island. In 1896 ten of these districts elected Republican Congressmen to the Fifty-fifth Congress. Two years after, in 3898, all of them returned Democrats. It was a shameful abandonment of the defence of the gold standard by the great commercial and financial capital of the Union.

This year when a new Congress is to be elected a great effort will be made to persuade the citizens of New York that they can repeat this recreancy without danger on the ground that the gold standard is established by the Republican Currency Act beyond the reach of disturbance. The gold majority in the Senate, it is asserted, will remain for its successful defence even if Bryan is elected and along with him a Bryanite House of Representatives; but actually there is no such assurance. The probability is rather that before BRYAN's Administration was over both houses of Congress would be controlled by a majority against the gold standard and be ready to repeal the present law.

No gold man of sound judgment, whether a Democrat or a Republican, will risk such a catastrophe by voting for a Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives or for a Legislature which is to elect a Senator

The situation now is the more dangerous because the whole organization of the Demcoratio party will be squarely and sincerely Bryanistic. In this city it will stand by BRYAN and the Chicago platform heartily and resolutely. Moreover, "anti-imperialist" leaders will be using all their little efforts to defeat Republican and consequently gold-standard candidates for

The business interests of the whole Union. and of New York more particularly, will therefore need to unite in supporting the Republican candidates for Congress without regard to past political differences, if danger of the repeal of the gold standard is to be avoided.

Wheat, Cotton, Rain and Drouth. Normally, about this time of the year, the weather in the Northwestern section of our country is marked by considerable rainfall, comparatively dry. This year these conditions have been reversed to an exceptional degree. For some weeks past there have been floods of rain in the South and little rain in the Northwest. In the former territory the rainfall has been so great as to destroy in many districts the growing crop of cotton, while in North Dakota the drouth accompanied by the hot winds has worked great damage to spring wheat. Yet it is as certain as anything can be that the American farmer will reap benefit from this, not injury. The immediate result has been a very great activity in the speculative markets of wheat and cotton. Both of these commodities have greatly risen in price. Cotton is up over a cent a pound from its low point touched a month ago and is approximating the highest value reached during the present season, while wheat, or the price of the options for the future delivery of it, rose over 20 cents a bushel within two weeks

and despite a severe reaction still scores a

great advance. The rise in cotton has much more justification of an actual supply and demand character than has the rise in wheat. The price of cotton, always affected by the weather conditions attending the growing crop, is, at present, extremely sensitive to this influence because of the very small amount of cotton that the world has in store. The total world's visible supply of cotton is now about 1,600,000 bales, as against double this quantity at the same time last year. Great Britain has in open stock 493,000 bales of cotton as against 1,294,000 bales last year and about the same quantity in former years. Indeed, considering the existing demand for cotton the staple may Army do not take in the full effect of them almost be said to be in a state of scarcity. A very great rise in price occurred last winter when these conditions became evident. Messrs. PRICE and McCormick in our own city endeavored to corner the cotton market on the strength of these facts, but they lacked the necessary means to accomplish their purpose. The acreage at present devoted to the Southern crop of cotton is the weather that the crop received up to June 1 caused a general belief that, while the amount of cotton on hand was small, there was still enough to go around and that there would be plenty for everybody in the fall. Hence cotton declined in price. It has now risen again under the influence of the bad weather. It will fall in price again if the weather becomes more favorable. The speculative market, in other words, is wholly dominated by weather conditions, and it is a very good speculative market for an outsider to keep out of. But the net result of it all will be the Southern planter a handsome return for been an enormous crop with prices low.

The rise in wheat has been much greater, comparatively, than that in cotton, Ever since Mr. Leiter's famous operations in wheat the world's supplies of this great the reverse of the case in cotton, these supplies nearly became, in the present spring, the most abundant ever known. The price

again nearly touched its record low point. This is always a dangerous condition in any speculative market for an operator who is bent on further depressing prices. While the harvest of winter wheat in the middle West and Southwest has been enormous, so that Kansas and Nebraska are glorying in the most bountiful crops of this sort that they have ever reaped, the bad weather in the Northwest has worked large damage to spring wheat, that territory's peculiar staple. A scare of "shorts' of tremendous magnitude has taken place, as the great rise in the price of the speculative options testifies. Foreign markets, however, not yet experiencing any shortage, have had a rise of only half that felt here. The speculators in foreign countries who are operating for a decline in our market, either as a speculation pure and simple or as makers of sales, against wheat grown in other countries, have been forced to retire from their operations here either at an actual loss or with less profit than they at

one time hoped to secure. But there is going to be plenty of wheat and the rise in the price of it has been greatly overdone. It has been due to speculative operations, either the enforced covering of "short" sales or enthusiastic buying for a further rise, rather than to any portentous shortage of grain supply. Assuming that the spring wheat crop of North Dakota and of certain sections in other States has been lessened by one-half, the splendid harvests in the Southwest assure a general wheat yield in the entire country of not far from 500,000,000 bushels. This, while less than the quantity grown last year, will still afford an ample supply of the staple both for our own use and for export. And it will be found that the higher price at which wheat will be sold will more than compensate the farmers of the country as a whole for the lessened quantity of the product. Such is always the case when the quantity produced is large enough for actual needs and does not dwindle to famine

Two International Occasions. The people of New York witnessed on April 28 1893 a spectacle not only unique in their local experience but also in some respects unprecedented in the history of the world. Representative warships of the great naval Powers had come to our harbor for the Columbian ceremonial. On Friday, the last day of the celebration, the marines and bluejackets from the several foreign squadrons marched together down Fifth avenue and Broadway and across the City Hall plaza, each detachment under the flag of its own nation, and

proportions.

all following the Stars and Stripes. The sentiment of this peaceful parade of the rival Powers of Europe through the streets of the American metropolis impressed the imagination of all beholders, more, probably, than any other incident of the Columbian festivities.

Here were the fighting men of Great

Britain and Russia, Germany and France, Italy and Holland, marching together under arms to make an American holiday. to the immense delight of about one million New Yorkers and others who had never een a foreign uniform, and, no doubt, somewhat to their own bewilderment at the unexpected combination. But they stepped along jauntily over our asphalt and our Belgian blocks, and beneath our red, white and blue, as if they were destined o be brothers in arms in perpetuity; and he swinging tars from the Blake and the Magicienne shared equally the hospitable applause with the stalwart white-caps from the Dimitri Donskoi and the Rynda; and between the lithe fellows of the Jean rt and the tawny seamen of the Ka Augusta there was no discrimination in the American friendliness. Yet it must have been a stolid and unimaginative Briton or German, Frenchman or Russian that day who did not wonder where and when and under what circumstances he would next come in contact with the colors ahead of him or behind him in the line; the flag, perhaps, which he had been specially bred and drilled to fight.

It is a coincidence worth noting that the only foreign warships then our guests in the North River which failed to be represented in that international procession were those of the nation with which we were destined to go to war in just five years. Spain did not send her men ashore.

It is likewise a remarkable coincidence that the marines and bluejackets of the six principal Powers concerned in that New York parade of seven years ago, England, Germany, Russia, France, Italy and the United States, have met again just half way around the world to join their flags in a common cause. From that time to this time no one of them has been engaged in hostilities with any other. The march to Pekin in 1900 is a very different affair from the march down Broadway in 1893. but in one respect the situation is similar. at least in its present aspect; and the participation of the United States 'n the international demonstration now in progress was prefigured and typifled here in New York on April 28, seven years ago.

Army Commissions. The changes that have taken place in our Army within the last two years are not appreciated by most persons. Even those who have had a good deal to do with the until they have studied the War Department's monthly list of officers.

The most astonishing thing to a person accustomed to the old slow advancement is the recent rank of most of the higher officers. Gen. MILES received his first commission as General in 1880; Gen. GREELY received his in March, 1887. Gen. BRECK-INRIDGE, the Inspector-General, was made largest ever planted and the favorable Brigadier-General in 1889. Gen. STERN-BERG, Surgeon-General, holds his commission from 1893. Except for these four officers, no General dates his rank from further back than 1897; and most of the general officers rank only from within

twelve months. Among the commissioned officers of the line, of course, the changes have been most numerous. The senior Colonel of Cavalry was commissioned in February, 1891; but eight of the other nine Cavalry Colonels hold commissions dated since May 30, 1898. The senior Lieutenant-Colonel of Cavalry dates his rank from Feb. that the price of cotton this season will keep 14, 1899; the senior Major, his from Oct. comparatively high and that it will make 14, 1896. The senior Captain has been Captain for nearly thirteen years; but he his toil, much greater than if there had will be a Major soon now. The senior Cavalry Lieutenant has held his rank from March, 1892; and the senior Second Lieu-

tenant his from June, 1896. It is the same way even in the Artillery, where promotion has been slower than staple have steadily increased until, exactly e'sewhere. Col. GUENTHER'S rank dates from June, 1896; Lieut.-Col. McCrea's from March, 1898. Major TIERNON'S commission dates from Sept. 1, 1896; the senior

senior Lieutenant from September, 1891. Two Captains, now well up on the list, were First Lieutenants for twenty-seven years before they got promotion. Capt. HAWTHORNE, just promoted, served less than nine years as First and Second Lieutenant. Some officers have gone through the Second Lieutenants' list in less than

three years. Seventeen of the twenty-five Infantry Colonels gained their rank since the outbreak of the Spanish war. All of the Lieutenant-Colonels did the same; so too did the Majors. The senior Captain holds rank from October, 1891, while the senior Lieutenant will have gone through two grades and got his Captaincy within nine years of his graduation. The senior Second Lieutenant will get his promotion within two years of his first commission.

The changes made after the Civil War, by which many Volunteer officers were transferred to the Regular Army, caused the congestion of promotions that for so many years made a commission in our Army something hardly to be coveted. Of course, many Volunteer officers now in the service will expect to obtain commissions in the Regular Army. Some of them will deserve to get them. It is to be hoped that means may be found to do justice to both Regular and Volunteer officers, and that promotion may not be retarded in the future as it was for so long a time after our Civil War

Vertical Handwriting Abolished. While the resolution recently adopted by the Board of School Superintendents of the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx recommending that the system of vertical penmanship be abandoned in the schools does not formally do away with that system in this neighborhood, it does so practically. It is probable that similar action will be taken in all the boroughs of the city. The vertical handwriting, so far as our public schools are concerned, will soon be a thing of the past.

Few people, except professional educators r parents who have had occasion to scan the handwriting books which their children have brought home from school, know what the system of vertical handwriting is It has been well described as the formation of letters as if the idea of the writer was to make each letter fill out as nearly as possible the sides of an imaginary square. This, when it is done with neatness, gives the letters the appearance of print. Such writing is, however, so eccentric and peculiar that it is greatly disliked by business men. and students from our schools who have been trained in this style have had to unlearn it and adopt the handwriting with the old-fashioned slant to the right if they desired to retain their places in business houses. The test of experience showed that it was good enough in libraries and in certain distinct classes of professional occupation, but not in commercial life and for general use. A further difficulty was that the vertical system was slow in execution. It is said that the average pupil using the slant system can write forty-five words a minute to the vertical writing pupil's thirty words.

Superintendent JASPER of our own borough of Manhattan is authority for the statement that the vertical system is, in fact, merely a hobby, for which certain school principals who are always hunting new things and certain text-book publishers who are ingenious purveyors of educational novelties are responsible. We think that public sentiment will cordially approve the abolition of the vertical system of writing in our public schools.

The Poetical Convention Virginia.

We have been favored with a copy of the rhymed "invocation" and "benediction" with which the Hon. NAT WARD FITZ GERALD of West Virginia opened and closed the Democratic State Convention at Parkersburg. It must have been an impressive occasion for the Bryanites there assembled.

The first and last stanzas of the Hon. NAT WARD FITZ GERALD'S production will give some idea of the extent of his poetical gamut and the versatility of his muse:

"GOD of our own, our native land, We recognize Thy throne, Thy hand! We know no Empire, young or old Except the great Republic's fold. Beneath whose flag, from sea to sea

"Now to your hills, ye noble sons Shoot off your mouths, instead of guns, And fight with arguments so grand That HANNA'S cohorts cannot stand. They'll reel and fall along the way And next November's 'lection day Will put the whole shebang to rout

With BILL MCKINLEY up the spout. All way through the Hon. NAT WARD FITZ GERALD's convention poem are to be found similarly striking contrasts, showing how easily his genius turns from passionate and sonorous invocation to airy persiflage. For

"Yea, GOD of Freedom, when we fight Unsheath our sword just for the right. From spotl and blood make us forbear Oh, GoD of Nations, hear our prayer

"For 'Torney-General, GEORGE McCoy-To lay 'em out he's just the boy. He'll get there, too, with both feet pat.

Just make the bet. you'll win the hat." Surely, there never was a State Conver tion like it. Will the Parkersburg method of arousing enthusiasm and enlivening the proceedings be adopted by the larger assemblage at Kansas City? Will the Bry-

anites resort to poesy there, too? But who is the Hon. NAT WARD FITZ GERALD, anyway? Can it be the patriot who was formerly engaged in the pension business at Washington under the slightly different style of NAT WARD FITZGERALD?

Perhaps the Hon. Lon STEPHENS, Governo of Missouri, is the most senseless and fit man to be the Democratic candidate for Vice-President. BRYAN and STEPHENS! Platform: Hurrah for rebellion in the Philippines! Hurrah for riot in the United States!

Make a bow to Capt. Bay, of the steamshir College Point, plying between Ninety-ninth street and Long Island. He was passing through the narrow channel close by the South Brother Island, steaming along by the side of another passenger boat, the Hackensack. both properly handled, when suddenly a steam launch, one of the pestiferous kind which being little and easily handled gets into the hands of duffers or skippers that take advantage of their littleness, dashed across the bow of Capt. Bar's boat so that it would have to pass between her and the Hackensack. It was impossible to draw away from the Hackensack far enough to prevent the launch, which had several people on board, from being sunk, without running the College Point ashore So Capt. Bay bravely and determinedly ran

his boat ashore. Three or four years ago Capt. Sigsber was coming down the East River with the Texas. somewhere about the Brooklyn Bridge, when an excursion boat filled with people got mixed of wheat declined ever since 1898 until it | Captain ranks from January, 1889, and the | up with the course of the Texas and was for | Hayden Carruth

the critical moment made helpless by the tide. Capt. SIGSBEE had either to cut the excursion poat in two or run the Texas into a dock. So he ran her into the dock, a proceeding for which the Navy Department, through Assistant Secretary ROOSEVELT, we believe, most

properly commended him. Capt. Bay is in good company and he erves his place.

The United States Monetary League, a sizzling liver concern, is to meet in Kansas City two days before the Democratic National Convention. It will have the happiness of hearing ome of the choicest financial thinkers in this or any other country. Among them are WIND ALLEN, COIN HARVEY, GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS, JAMES R. SOVEREIGN and SAM GOMPERS, and that once great chief of the Drys, JOHN PETER SINJUN. A troop of geniuses and a league of

This anecdote comes from the Kaneae City

"One day last week, Mr. JOHN THORNBURROW, a armer of Nemaha county, put \$2,000 in his pocket. tucked his daughter under his arm and started for the Paris Exposition. Forty years ago Mr. THORN-BURROW took up the claim on which he now resides. and at that time his entire possessions were represented in a twenty-dollar bill. He is easily worth \$100,000; every dollar of which he made in farming and raising cattle.

Our Populist friends will notice that this Kanas farmer has got his full share of that allowance of money "per capity," for which they used to howl. The present condition of the down-trodden farmers makes the Populists and the other Bryanites sadder and madder than ever.

The Fort Plains Standard criticises the recen action of a local Magistrate, who permitted a convicted felon to choose between five years in State Prison and enlisting in the Army. A few persons as proper. Opinion about the Army and the soldiers has changed during the past two years, and the choice given by the Justice is considered now more in the nature of an in sult to the Army than formerly. This is as it should be. If military service were compulsory here, the choice offered by the Judge might seem not improper; but in a country where Army service is purely voluntary, the option is an affront to every person who has entered the Army. Probably the Judge had no conception of what he was doing: similar offers have been made before, in this country and in Great Britain, the only other country where military service is voluntary. The Army is not a prison however, and we hope that in the future no Judge will consider it one.

SWEATBOX IN OUR POST OFFICE. Postmaster-General Smith Proposes Relief for the Clerks in the Basement.

WASHINGTON, June 28 .- Postmaster-General Smith said to-day: "I have just returned from New York, and while there I made a tour underground in the New York Post Office. It is a regular sweatbox down there and I don't see how the clerks stand it. We are endeavoring to relieve the situation as much as possible by securing a building near the wharves for the foreign mail division. Then we will remove the foreign mail clerks from the first floor of the city Post Office and move up the clerks out of the basement. It is unfortunate we cannot have the new Post Office at once, but owing to the great expenses of the country we cannot do all in this line which would

be desirable."

Mr. Smith would not say he would recommend a new Post Office Building to Congress next session, but indicated that such would be the case. "The trouble we are having now," he said, "is to find how far we can go within our appropriation and not interfere with what Congress may desire to do next winter."

PAY OF REAR ADMIRALS.

The Last Nine Are Entitled to the Pay of Brigadier-Generals Only.

WASHINGTON, June 28.-The Comptroller of the Treasury has ruled that the last nine Rear Admirals of the Navy are entitled to only the pay of a Brigadier-General, from which 15 per cent, may be deducted when they are on shore duty. Rear Admiral Silas W. Terry raised the question by demanding the pay of a Major-General. Admiral Terry supported his case by citing section 13 of the Naval Personnel bill, which irrovides that officers of the line shall have the same pay and allowances as army offihave the same pay and allowances as army offi-cers of the corresponding rapk, and as the Rear Admiral corresponds to a Major-General, he held that he should receive the same pay. The Comptroller pointed out that section 7 of the same act directly stipulated that the nine Ad-mirals in the second division shall receive the pay of Brigadier-Generals, and held that a gen-eral law does not repeal a special law.

DRY DOCK AT CHARLESTONS

Board to Decide Whether to Build On There or Repair the Port Royal Dock.

WASHINGTON, June 28 .- In accordance with a provision of the Naval Appropriation act Secretary Long to-day appointed a board of naval officers to proceed to Charleston and Port Royal, S. C., to determine by personal in-Port Royal, S. C., to determine by personal inspection whether it is advisable to build a dry dock at Charleston or to retain and repair the existing dry dock at Port Royal. Should the board decide in favor of Charleston it will select a site for the dock near that city. The board will consist of Rear Admirals Rogers, Summer and Barker, Capt. Converse, Civil Engineer Asserson, Constructor Linnard and Lieutenant-Commander Staunten. Asserson, Constructor I Commander Staunton.

Bayonne Fire and N. J. C. R. R.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Cen tral Railroad of New Jersey outdid itself last night in stupid railroad management, and to show how small a thing will upset the local management of this railroad it may be interesting to tell my experience briefly as it was the experience also of two dozen other pas sengers.

As reported in THE SUN this morning, there was a fire in Bayonne last night at Twenty-second street A large icehouse directly alongside the tracks burned down, with some adjoining buildings. This started about 10 o'clock and from soon after that until about 2:30 this morning no passenger train passed that point in either direction. Through trains were sent around by way of the Newark branch, connecting with the main line at Elizabethport.

Heft New York on the 11.45 boat expecting to take the express with which that boat connects for West Eighth street (Bergen Point). Reaching Jersey City heard the train caller announce that the first stop was Elizabethport, with no reference to any change in the time table. "Why, this train stops at West Eighth, doesn't it?" I asked. "Not to-night," he answered, and with no further explanation called out the stations again. Finally, he consented to tell me that there was a fire in Bayonne which blocked the that there was a fire in Bayonne which blocked the road. And on further questions as to how I was to get home, he said he "thought a local would be made up soon" for the Bayonne stations. I tried to get some idea from another train caller how soon they would be likely to get a train through. So far as he knew, he said, the local which leaves the Jersey City station at 12:12 would start on time. So I boarded the train with the other passengers and there we sat in the disgraceful old ears the road uses on its locals—cars which would be condemned on a local in Florida—intil stee 1:15.

At last we started and ran down nearly to Twenty-third street, where we were stalled until 2:15, finally reaching West Eighth street at 2:30, having been nearly three hours on the way to a suburbsever miles from New York.

As you may see from this no consideration whatever

nearly three hours on the way to a suburb seven miles from New York.

As you may see from this no consideration whatever was shown for local passengers. It would have been simple enough to have put up a notice in the Liberty street station teiling Bayonne passengers that the road was blocked. Then they could have taken the troiley and been at home in an hour or less. But then the road would have lost a few dollars in fares, and to allow it to gather them in we were compelled to spend almost three hours on the road.

And even after they had invelged us to the Jersey City station they could have run a train as far as Thirty third street and given us a chance to get home, but that would have involved some wear and tear on rolling stock, and the Jersey Central is such an economical railway that I suppose such a proposition would fill the management with horror. What with their miserable old tubs that are called ferryboats by couriesy, and that rarely, if ever, get in on time, and the "bum" cars thy are forcing their commuters to wear out with their hip bones and shoulder blades, living on the line of the Jersey Central is not all ice cream and strawberries.

Bayonne, N. J., June 26, eream and strawberries. BAYONNE, N. J., June 26.

Harper's for July offers much interesting reading, of variety to suft all readers. There are contributions by E. E. Easton, "Inside the Boer Lines;" by J. D. Daskam, James Buckham, Fred A. McKenzie, Capt. Wellby, "A Journey to the Abyssinian Capital;" by Henry Smith Williams, as well as by more familiar contributors. Among these latter may be named Frank Stockton, William Henry Bishop, Stephen Crane, Israel Zangwill, Mrs. Humphry Ward and

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

By far the most important news received from outh Africa for some days is that containe in THE SUN'S correspondent's despatch from Cape Town, stating that the newly formed Rhodesite Ministry had decided to adopt in their entirety the proposals of ex-Prime Minister Schreiner regarding the treatment of the Cape Colony rebels. This decision is in direct opposition to the position taken up by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, in regard to the matter when the same proposals were put forward by Mr. Schreiner. Briefly stated, they were that the ringleaders in the rebellion only should be held responsible for their actions, and the rank and file should be let free under certain conditions, not of a penal character. Mr. Chamberlain's refusal to entertain these proposals was the cause of Mr. Schreiner's resignation. The sudden change leaves only one of two things to be inferred; either the new Ministry with a more just idea of the consequences likely to arise from the policy of extremes favored by Mr. Chamberlain, has taken the decision on its own account and is determined to push it through as the best policy for Cape Colony, being assured of the unanimous support of the entire Legislature, or the British Cabinet as a whole, in view of political conditions elsewhere, has given way to the representations of the responsible Colonial Ministry. The

situation as presented by THE SUN correspond ent is interesting from every point of view, but in none more than the position in which it places the Colonial Administration toward the Colonial Office in London. The outcome of the decision taken by Sir Gordon Sprigg's Cabinet in Cape Town may have more effect on the ultimate solution of the South African troubles than the military operations, about which for the moment we hear next to nothing

PROTECTING THE FORESTS.

Some papers read before the American Forestry Association, in session this week in this city, show that the elements of the art of safe guarding our timber interests have yet to be learned by many legislators and timber owners The failure to secure adequate forestry legisla tion in Wisconsin is attributed by Mr. Bruncken of Milwaukee to lack of interest in forestry reform. Mr. Garfield, President of the Michigan Forestry Commission, reports that corporations are removing all the timber from large areas, that excessive taxation on timber lands drives many owners to cut off all the trees, that forest fires are uncontrolled and stealing timber by persons who cut anything they can carry away is a greater evil than ever Several papers emphasize the point that forest fires when well started cannot be controlled and that the only way to protect timber from this evil is prevention and the suppression of incipient fires. It is not many years since ten times as much pine was burned in Minnesota as was sawed in the mills. That forests may with vigilance, be saved from fire is shown by the fact that none of the forested parks maintained by private persons in the Adirondacks as game and fishing preserves was injured last year by fires, though large damage was

last year by fires, though done in the public domain.

We are beginning to reap the fruits of many decades of carclessness and ignorance. Nearly all the white pine, our most valuable lumber resource, is gone. Furniture makers are complaining of the scarcity of black walnut. It is not long since our farmers, wholly ignorant of the value of this timber, were cutting it for firewood and fence posts. Twenty years firewood and fence posts. Twenty years ago, before it was realized that hemlock was ar ago, before it was realized that hemlock was an excellent source of lumber, the large trees were left to rot in the woods after the bark had been taken for tanning purposes.

We must now repair with infinite pains the damage done. The lesson we are learning has been learned by other nations through the same hard experience. It has been proven that the decline in population in several departments of France is due to the destruction of forests in the French Alps, the Pyrenees and on the central plateau which has so affected the hydrographic régime as to cause great

the hydrographic regime as to cause great floods and destroy fertile lands by covering them with rock waste from the mountains. France is now expending enormous energy and money in the slow work of reforesting the denuded mountain sides and in building works to control the waters that, when forests shaded the melting snows, were not emptied into the valleys in a few waters that the control of the property of the statement of th were not emptied into the valleys in a few hours or days. The Adirondacks, the high-lands of the Mississippi and the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, our Government forestry agents tellus, present, as the results of deforestation, many aspects similar to those seen to France.

seen in France.

The work before the country is educational as well as the practical carrying out of scientific forestry methods. The people must learn the absolute necessity of forest preservation. The work has been well begun by various colleges and State forestry commissions; an when legislators and the public become full alive to the importance of reform in this matter there will be no lack of the cooperation re-quired to produce in time the desired results.

TO REPLENISH ORDNANCE DEPOTS Proposals to Be Invited for Furnishing Armor

Piercing and Torpedo Shell. WASHINGTON, June 28.-The Ordnance Bureau of the Army has decided to replenish the ordnance depots of the United States, and orders will be issued to-morrow calling for proposals for furnishing the Ordnance Department with large quantities of steel and castiron shell. Of the steel supplies there will be purchased 400 6-inch armor-piercing shot capped; 1,000 6-inch armor-piercing shell; 1,000 10-inch armor-piercing shell; 1,000 10-inch armor-piercing shell; 1,000 12-inch D. P. shell of 1,000 pounds weight; 600 torpedo shell of 1,000 pounds weight; 600 torpedo shell of 1,000 pounds weight; 800 pounds will be opened for furnishing 200 8-inch cast iron shell, 200 10-inch shot and 200 12-inch mortar shell of 800 pounds weight.

The determination to secure these supplies was reached several days ago at a conference between the Secretary of War and Gen. Buffington, Chief of the Ordnance Bureau. iron shell. Of the steel supplies there will be

Vertical Writing Favored.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sire The action of the Board of School Superintendents of New York in abolishing the teaching of the vertical style of penmanship is a great misfortune to a numerous body of children. Mr. John Jasper, chairman of the board, gives as one of the reasons for a return to the slant system of writing his supposition that the vertical style is a' 'fad." If he will take the trouble to examine the history of penmanship, he will discover that writing, either vertical or almost discover that writing, either vertical or almost vertical, has been the accepted style for nearly two thousand years, and down to the comparatively recent peried when some inartistic and disorderly persons introduced the "fad" of slanting their letters by leaning them to the right. They might just as well have slanted them to the left and, at one time, there was an attempt made to introduce the "fad" of a left slant, to take the place of the "fad" of a right slant, but it was unsuccessful. Mr. Jasper will discover further that the slant system is mainly responsible for all the execrable handwriting in the world.

CHARLES W. THOMAS.

BELLEVILLE, Ill., June 24. BELLEVILLE, Ill., June 24.

Cheap Acetylene Black.

From Engineering. The fact that acetylene can be readily decomposed into its elements has long been known. When this is done the carbon is liberated in an extremely finely divided state, and being absolutely pure is superior to the best lampblack for the manufacture of lithographic ink, varnishes and photographic purposes. Commernishes and photographic purposes. Commercial calcium carbine is, however, still too expensive to permit of acetylene black prepared from it competing with lampblack. In all carbide works, however, there is a considerable quantity of material produced which is of such inferior quality as to be unsalable, and Mr. Hubou, a French engineer, proposes to make use of this waste for the production of the acetylene black.

use of this waste for the proposes to make use of this waste for the production of the acetylene black.

The process of manufacture is simple. The acetylene is forced into an explosion vessel filled with hydrogen, until a pressure of about seventy-five pounds is attained. The explosion is then effected by raising a coil of platinum wire inside the vessel to a white heat. Acetylene being an endothermic substance, a considerable quantity of heat is liberated on its decomposition, but owing to the gas having been diluted with hydrogen, as described, the highest pressure reached during the explosion does not exceed 370 pounds per square inch. One cubic foot of acetylene yields one cunce of the black, and in addition, one cubic foot of pure hydrogen, which itself may have a considerable commercial value.

Ought to Be Prosecuted. From the Los Angeles Times.

That New Hampshire father who has named his baby Petugrew should be prosecuted for cruelty to

THE BATTLE OF CEDAR CREEK. The Effect of the Return of Gen. Sherida

Described by a Distinguished Participant. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I commanded the 116th Ohio Volunteer Infantry at the memorable Battle of Cedar Creek. It was my good fortune to lead one of the charges of that battle, to lead the charge of the Eighth Corps at the Battle of Opequan, and also to lead the charge of the Eighth Corps when it swept down Kershaw's Division at the Battle of Fisher's Hill. I feel, therefore, that I am in a position to say a few words about Gen. Sheridan and the effect of his presence among the men at

The Battle of Cedar Creek occurred on the 19th of September, 1864. The Union forces engaged consisted of the Sixth Corps on the right under Gen. Wright, the Eighth Corps on the left under Gen. Crook, and the Nineteenth Corps in

the centre under Gen. Emory. Gen. Sheridan had been called to Washington by Secretary Stanton for a consultation. Before he left, however, he spent a day in arranging the affairs of his army. It was placed at Cedar Creek in command of Gen. Wright. Crook's command occupied an advance position near the junction of Cedar Creek and the Shenandoah River. The cavalry was started to Front Royal, on its march to the Army of the Potomac. Sheridan himself accompanied it thus far, then turned off through Manassas Gap to Piedmont and took rail for Washington On the way warning despatches came to him from Wright. A message from Longstreet to Early had been taken off a rebel signal flag saying: "Be ready to move as soon as my forces join you and we will crush Sheridan. Wright feared the enemy's cavalry might give him some trouble with his right flank.

Though Sheridan thought the despatch might be a ruse, he ordered the cavalry back at once, instructed Wright to call in all his forces and be on the watch, and promised to be back not later than Tuesday. He spent only six hours at the consultation in Washington-

and even then was too late. On the night of the 18th, while Sheridan was approaching Winchester on his return, Early and Longstreet were silently moving out from Fisher's Hill: and so careful were they that even the canteens had been taken from the men. lest there should be some slight rattle against a cartridge box or bayonet sheath. They also had the advantage of a heavy gray mist which had ended the autumn day. Wright was only apprehensive about his right flank; the disposition of the cavalry there showed it, and the enemy profited by it. They moved to the opposite flank. Some pickets reported the sound of marching in the night, and I gave warning to a brigade commander, but no attention was paid to it. I could only hold my own regiment in readiness. The Confederates made the crossing over the Shenandoah River, at an unguarded ford about two miles below the extreme left of Crook's command. The dawn was obscured by a heavy fog and through this there suddenly burst the yells of the rebel infantry-not Early's troops alone, but the flower of the Army of Northern Virginia.

The extremity of Crook's line, surprised in flank and rear, doubled up in confusion. The attack was so sudden, the movement was so quick, so ordered, so forceful on the part of the assailants, that the defenders had hardly time to seize their guns before the enemy was into the trenches and had seized a portion of our works. My regiment held their works until they were being flanked, when they fell back in good order and took a position on the Winchester pike on the left of the Nineteenth Corps. Across the Cedar Creek Bridge the Confederate forces were now rapidly marching column by column and forming in line of battle directly under Gen. Emory's guns. Before Wright and Emory could realize the grayity of the situation their lines were assaulted with the same fury and the same result that Crook's had been, and by 9 o'clock, not only had the Confederates possession of our entire works, artillery and camp equipage, but also had driven the army in confusion into the woods and ravines north of Middletown, disouraged, disorganized and panic-stricken. Generals had lost their command and stragglers were to be seen everywhere going to the rear. No one can have any conception of the confusion that reigned or of the spectacle that is presented by a disorganized army in retreat. This was the scene that confronted Sheridan when he rode up on his famous black horse, from Winchester. Meanwhile my horse had been shot under me, I was badly wounded through my left shoulder, and a surgeon was dressing the wound on the field near the pike. within less than fifty yards of where Sheridan passed. A provost guard had been hastily

thrown out to stop the retreating soldiers who had lost their command. Sheridan was directly opposite me. His horse was covered with foam and froth. Ifheard one of the guards say, "Halt, or I will shoot," to a straggler. Sheridan turned around in his saddle, and said, "Don't you shoot one of my men to-day for any reason." and then addressing the stragglers, he said; "Boys, I want you to go right back with me. If I had been here 'to-day, this would not have happened." Then he waved his has with his cheery smile, and said: "Face the other way. We are going to get a twist on them. We will have all those camps and cannons back again." The effect on these poor men was indescribable. They cheered again and again and turned after him. I was helped on a horse, and rode back to my lines in time to see Sheridan start on his ride down the line after it had been re-formed. He had on his army overcoat. Just as he was starting I heard Gen. Crook say: "General, I fear the men will not recognize you." Sheri dan threw back the cape of his coat, exposing his shoulder straps, and said to the man carrying his headquarters flag: "Give me the flag." and holding it high in his band he dashed away at full gallop down the line to the extreme right, and back, amid the wild cheering of the men. The army was mad with enthusiasm, and eager to charge the enemy.

By 4 o'clock we had driven the Confederates back through Middletown and across Cedar Creek, completely routed and in full retreat. We captured prisoners, wagons, forty-nine pleces of artillery, and recovered twenty-four pieces of artillery we had lost in the morning So badly demoralized was the enemy, that Gen. Merritt followed them and brought back into our lines, with the aid of a single orderly, the Confederate ambulance corps loaded with Confederate wounded. I feel convinced that if Sheridan had not

reached the army when he did we should have fallen back to Winchester, as both Gens. Wright and Emory had shown that they were not equal to the occasion, and what is of far more importance, the rank and file had lost confidence in them. Sheridan, though naturally a retiring man, was simply a ball of magnetism on the field. He could arouse and thrill his men as no other General of the American Army could. It was his magnetism that turned defeat into victory at Cedar Creek. We used to say in army circles that Grant was the bulldog of the war; Sherman the strategist, and Sheridan the man with the dash. From May 5, 1864, to April 9, 1865, Gen. Sheridan's command captured 205 Confederate battle flags-nearly as many as all the armies captured during the Rebellion. Grant considered Sheridan one of his ablest Generals and caused a salute of 100 guns to be fired from each of his armies at City Point in honor of his achievement at Cedar Creek. Congress voted him its thanks and a grateful country rang with his praises. He was a brave General, a gallant man, and a friend to re-WILBERT BARTON TETERS, member. 116th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

DENVER, Col., June 21.

The Ablest "Bad Man." From the Land of Sunshine

I have friends with a pretty fair record of their own. Billy Martin, whose right hand "gun" hangs on my wall, a token of esteem, was in his day perhaps the best "Bad Man" alive. I have seen him twiddle this six shooter and its mate, contemporaneously on either forefinger, and every time they whirled each broke a beer bottle at thirty feet. Billy had a little matter of twenty-three men to his credit, and I fancy most of them deserved his attentions. He may have bettered his score since, under another name; for no one knows whither he went.

PRIZES WITH TOBACCO ILLEGAL. The Paragraph Stipped Into the Dingley Bill

WASHINGTON, June 28.-Judge Jackson of the United States District Court for the District of West Virginia, rendered a decision yesterday that tobacco manufacturers should be fined \$1,000 penalty for offering prizes of any description with packages of smoking or chewing tobacco or eigarettes. A test case was made of the case of the United States vs. 288 packages of Merry World Tobacco, to decide whether any penalty is provided for not complying with the last paragraph of section 10 of the act approved July 24, 1897, and also on the constitutionality of the act. Judge Jackson decided that section 3,456 of the Revised Statutes provides the penalty and that the law is constitutional. This decision will be far reaching in its effects. It is said by internal revenue officials that the better class of to-

offer no such inducements. The paragraph under consideration pro-The paragraph under consideration provides that packages of smoking tobacco, fine-cut chewing tobacco and cigarettes shall not have packed in or attached to or connected with them any article or thing whatsoever of a foreign nature, and that there shall not be affixed to or branded, stamped, marked, written or printed on these packages or their contents any promise or offer of, or any order or certificate for, any gift prize premium, payment or reward.

bacco manufacturers will be glad to have the

law enforced. The manufacturers of cheaper

grades of tobacco and cigarettes use the prize

plan for increasing the sales of their goods,

while the manufacturers of other line goods

or reward. It was charged at the time the Dingley bill was passed that this paragraph was sneaked in it "by representatives of the Tobacco Trust." At any rate the paragraph was not in the bill as it passed the House and was not inserted by the Senate, and first appeared when the final conference report on the tariff bill was presented to both houses for their action. Little notice of it was taken even then, and its full effect was not discovered until after the bill became a law. The Internal Revenue Bureau, owing to some doubt as to the legality of the provision, has not been very strict in its enforcement, although they have repeatedly warned manufacturers to comply with its terms.

NO BRYANISM FOR HEWITT.

As to the Philippines and China, We Have the Wolf by the Ear and Can't Let Go. Abram S. Hewitt, one of the most prominent

of the Eastern Gold Democrats in 1896, takes

the same stand on the nomination of William J Bryan as does J. Sterling Morton, ex-Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Hewitt rejects Mr. Bryan utterly and practically states that he would not support him for any office under the National Government, no matter what platform he stood on. Mr. Hewitt said yesterday that a man who denounced as government by injunction the performance by the judiciary of the duties imposed upon it by the Constitutional law of the land; who denounced the Supreme Court, the bulwark of liberty and order; who sought to overthrow the judiciary of the country, was a man too limited in understanding and too violent in impulse to be intrusted with the great

office of President. The American conception of government, said Mr. Hewitt, has always been liberty regulated by law; the Bryan notion of government, said Mr. Hewitt, has always been liberty regulated by law; the Bryan notion is despotism regulated by anarchy.

Mr. Hewitt does not think that there is any issue in this country between imperialism and anti-imperialism. It is simply a case of having the wolf by the ear and being unable to let go, he said. He did not believe that the Administration wanted the Philippines, or that it deliberately entered upon a course of empire. It had been gradually forced into its present situation by currents of events which could not be foreseen or resisted. In similar fashion, without desire or purpose, he said, we are now taking part in an armed conflict in China, the outcome of which cannot be seen by any mortal. On the matter of trusts Mr. Hewitt said that he thought that trusts were necessary combinations and the result of natural development. In 1890, he said, he pointed out the remedy for the evils of the trust in the following words:

"Publicity, inspection and discussion are the great safeguards which the public can apply in order to correct abuses and avoid conflicts and disastrous losses."

Cheap Living.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It this Mr. A. R. Brasher would go a little further into details, I wonder if he wouldn't tell us that his payment of \$11 per month for a floor "in a respectable house in Way erley place" is part of his wages for acting as janiter of one of the business buildings in that neighb My husband and I live in a tiny apartment on the West Side, and we are very economical persons—although we have all the necessaries of lite—and we have found t utterly impossible to live on less than \$1,500. W to the theatre very seldom, indeed, and our table is always very plain, although the quality of the food is good. We keep no servants, and spend no money for fuxuries; yet the sum named above just keeps us in comfort, and no more.

Would that Mr. Brasher gratify our curiosity?

NEW YORK, June 26.

A WESTSIDER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Major P. T. Wall, for a generation one of the best known and most popular hotel men in the metropolis, once said to me: "Fifteen thousand dollars a year will pay for the simple board and lodging of any man in the world

with his wife. But please remember that I am not speaking of idiots, but of sensible men with no bad habits." This is one phase of social economy and the man who spends \$15,000 a year on bare living probably regards with contempt the efforts of those who seek to eke out an existence on a paltry \$2,000 or \$1,800 annual income, to say nothing of the family which strives to live honestly and respectably on

which strives to live honestly and respectably on a smaller sum.

I can understand the uncasiness which must fill the minds of the Harold Skimpoles of our daily life when they hear of these efforts and realize that possibly some day they may themselves be obliged to put them into practice. As the case now stands, either through their shiftlessness or laziness, they prefer to avail themselves of the gifts of others. It is not for you, sir, to advertise where attractive homes may be had for low prices. If these carping critics would take the trouble to look in the city directory, as other inclined to fair play have done, they would find where a floor in an old-fashioned house in a respectable neighborhood is rented for \$11 monthly. And that such opportunities do occur at intervals is attested by the publication yesterday in a newspaper of the following offer:

"A whole house for \$12; rooms large, light and in

following offer:

"A whole house for \$12; rooms large, light and in fine order. East 41st st."

It is encouraging to find so much interest being taken in the problem of living by the public at large, and already many experiments are under way. A gentleman connected with the Herald to d me that on Sunday his family of three adults had enjoyed a delicious dinner, prepared on economical lines, at a cost of 85c., as follows: Soup, 5c.; fish, 40c.; asparagus, 10c.; tomatoes, 5c.; radishes, 2c.; pitatoes, 5c.; strawberries, 10c.; lee ergem, 10c.; erfee, milk, bread. 10c.; tomatoes, 5c.; radishes, 2c; potatoes, 5c; straw berries, 10c; ice cream, 10c; coffee, milk, bread, &c. 8c; mayonnaise, 5c. As for that dear old "Manly Man's Wife," Bona-parte's unexpected reply to Mme, de Stael will probably sumce.

JUNE 27.

The Bryan Tip-Sell Wheat! TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I wonder if farmers are aware that the great prophet of the West has given them a valuable "tip" on the coming wheat

In a recent speech Col. Bryan informed the public that he would sell his large wheat crop as soon as threshed. He does not ray he does it on the principle of the thing; therefore we surmise he looks for a slump in the wheat market if he is elected; for he has said he would be elected. The "tip." then, is: "Sell your wheat now: take no PETER S. WARD.

The Slick Talkers Repudiate Barcus. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It may interest you to know that the pupils of the busy Barcus are now working this locality. They repre

POUGHKBEPSIE, June 27.

sent themselves as agents of a Congressional Distri bution Committee, but will consent to accept \$34 for When the writer inquired for Mr. Barcus the agent

denied all knowledge of him. 'Since the investiga tion," he said, "Mr. Barcus has had nothing to do with the distribution, which is entirely a Congressional matter Yes, the price is still \$34." BUFFALO, June 27. E. M. M

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In the article on "Lessons of the \$175,000,000 Ashheap" in the July Forum, Mr. Boles makes the point that

any city big enough to have an elevated railway system is important enough to have an elevated fire System is about true? Should not the greatest city in the United States, the city of "sky scrapers," have something better than "squirt gins" to put out fires 250 feet in the air?

NEW YORK, June 28.

Fire Service for Fires Aloft.

Roosevelt and the Veterans. From the Indianapolis Sentinel.

In this city in 1889 Theodore Roosevelt, as a Civil Service Commissioner, devised the plan by which veterans of the war for the Union who had been dismissed from the public service with good records could be reinstated. Under that rule hundreds of veterans who were dismissed between 1885 and 1889 were restored to the public service. It was under this rule. devised by Gov. Roosevelt, that scores of Republican veterans have been restored to the service sines 1887.